

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

### *Archeological*

Archeological resources in the park are not well documented. Only 12 sites are currently documented and there may be as many as 150. Unknown numbers of archeological sites remain undiscovered, unprotected, and uninterpreted for visitors because the park has not had a comprehensive archeological survey. A park-wide archeological survey and inventory began in 2007 and should be completed by 2010.

### *Historic Landscapes and Structures*

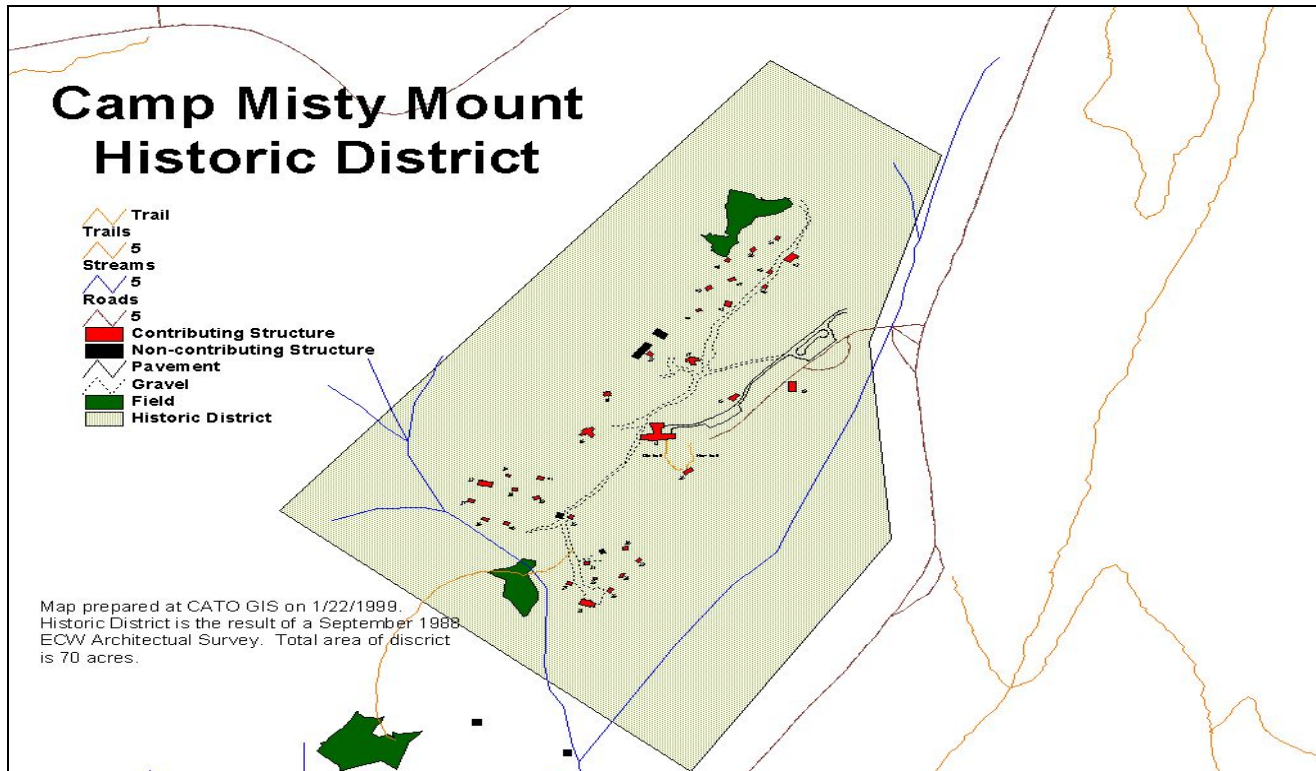
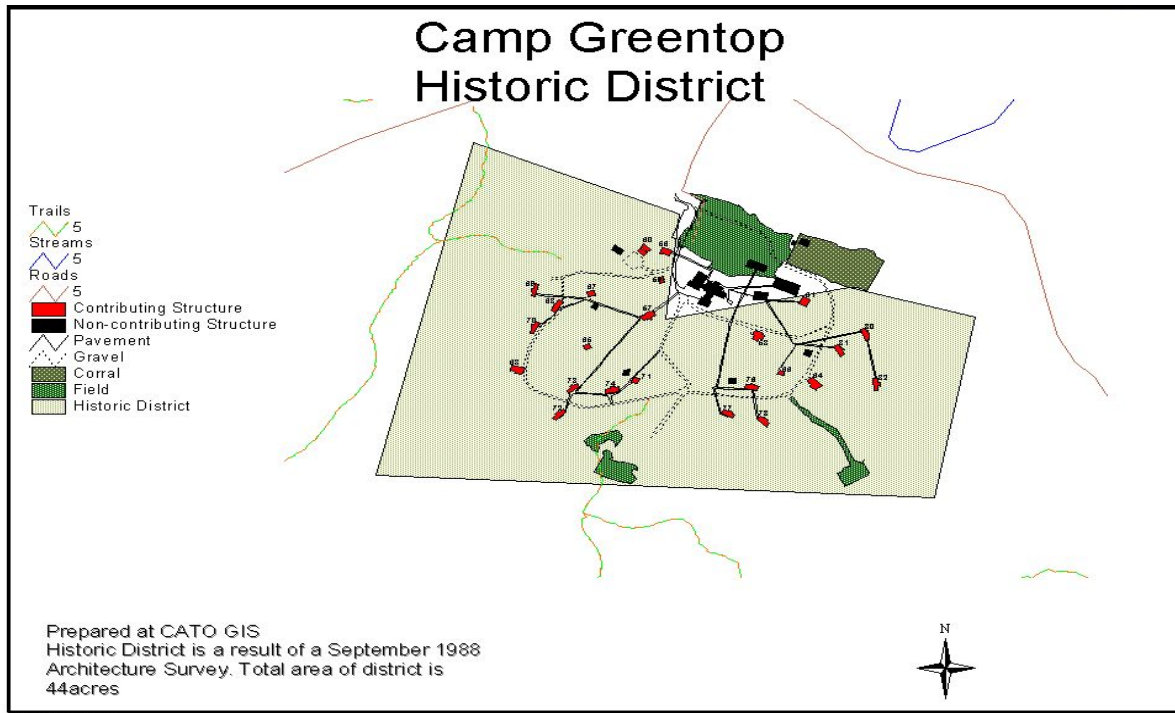
Catoctin Mountain Park is a broad cultural landscape that contains a large number of historic features that testify to the experiences of those diverse people who have lived here and exploited the mountain's natural resources. Rock shelters and chipping sites remain where Native Americans quarried rhyolite to produce tools. Settlers of German, English, and Swiss descent settled the Catoctin Mountains in the mid 1700s and farmed the western portions of the park. Charcoal hearths, collier's huts, house foundations, stone walls, old road beds, springs, wells, dumpsites, and whiskey stills are signs of European settlement, subsistence farms and local industry from the mid 1700s through the 1930s. In 1936, government programs of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal acquired these sub-marginal farm and forest lands and developed Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area for recreation and conservation purposes. Sixty eight of the original park buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and most are located in two Historic Districts at Misty Mount and Greentop. The historic buildings are excellent examples of the NPS rustic architecture from the 1930s, and they represent the human conservation efforts of the New Deal programs.

Preservation of these historic structures, which remain in use today, is a major challenge and a high priority of the cultural resource management program. The log structures are subject to significant deterioration from weather and insect pests. Fifty-three of sixty-seven (79%) historic structures are in GOOD condition. Currently, the Maintenance Division is able to restore 1 cabin per year to GOOD condition so that all structures will be fully restored once every 67 years. One additional preservation team trained in historic structures (at least two carpenters and helpers) could reduce the overall cabin restoration cycle to a more standard 28 years by rehabilitating two structures each year. The reduction in the List of Classified Structures' (LCS) Rehabilitation Cycle would substantially improve the park's ability to keep all of our structures in GOOD condition and provide the visiting public with an enjoyable stay in a historic structure and setting.

A second and less visible area of cultural resources in the park involve the sites and artifacts from daily life in this area during the time immediately prior to the establishment of the park. A 1991 survey of a portion of the park identified over 323 such sites. These cultural resources include collier's huts, charcoal hearths, stone walls, and rail fences.



Round Meadow Blacksmith Shop  
Photo by NPS.



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### ***Museum Collection***

The current museum collection consists of cultural resources and natural resources. Historic artifacts include a variety of blacksmith shop tools that relate to the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. These tools are stored in the park along with a small assortment of bottles, broken pottery, and metal objects that have been field collected over time. The archeological collection consists of two arrowheads and a number of rhyolite flakes that are associated with lithic tool making here at the park. There are also archeological objects and documentation from small surveys in the park.



Blacksmith Demonstration by Volunteer Ron Wenger.  
Photo by NPS.

The natural history collection currently consists of a small insect collection (butterflies & moths), a working herbarium, and items collected from a small mammal survey. As NPS resource inventory and monitoring programs begin operation, the natural history collection is starting to expand. A relatively large number of objects will be added in the near future and discussions between resources management staff and the collection manager will develop strategies to meet the future needs and impacts of the inventory and monitoring program.

There are no catalogued archives for Catoctin Mountain Park. There are historic records, photographs, and research reports that should be archived but due to small staff size there has been no opportunity to undertake this large time consuming project. All historic records, photographs, and research reports are stored in fire resistant file cabinets. Historic records are adequately stored but should be digitized and archived into the museum collection. A small collection of oral history tapes are housed with the museum collection. Some of these tapes have been transcribed but approximately half of the tape collection still needs transcription. New data management technologies require either staffing or training increases for museum management. Given this increasing complexity it may be beneficial to pursue a multi-park approach to the curation of museum objects for parks in this geographic area.

### ***Critical Needs for Cultural Resources***

One of the recommendations of the Cultural Landscape Inventory of 2000 was the evaluation of Catoctin Mountain Park in its entirety for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Any nomination should be consider two periods of significance. The first period (1770-1903) is defined by time during which the landscape was influenced by a rural iron furnace located in the foothills. The second period (1934-1942) represents the years when the site was shaped by the New Deal program that recast the landscape for recreation and conservation and removed the larger features of the agricultural landscape. An historic furnishings report is needed to guide restoration efforts in the cabin camps. Lighting, both interior and exterior, is a particular subject which needs to be addressed.